Week 1 – Reflection Teaching with Technology

*Using Technology with Classroom Instruction That Works,* (Pitler, Hubbell, Kuhn, & Malenoski, 2007) is the foundation for what I see as the purpose of this course. As a classroom teacher and technology leader I am tasked daily to find ways to provide effective classroom instruction while incorporating the new and emerging technology that classroom instruction requires for 21st century learners. The authors voice the question that educators and administrators often make, "Why technology?" Budget constraints and testing requirements often place new philosophies and practices in a holding pattern. However, current research by noted researchers such as those at Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McRel) are demonstrating the positive influence of technology on the classroom.

Constructivism is the learning theory that considers learning to be an individual and personal event. Educational technologists that are in the classroom and using technology with classroom instruction are providing models of constructivism in the classroom. Research into the use of technology in the classroom is showing how students have more control on their own learning when it is student-centered and meaningful.

So what becomes of the role of the teacher? Sprague and Dede suggest that that the teacher adopts the role of a facilitator or guide. Students are expected to construct their own understandings as they explore and question new concepts. As digital natives they are naturally inclined to use technology to facilitate their learning. They use the internet to research content and a wide variety of production tools to demonstrate knowledge. This type of instructional model fosters collaborative environments both face to face and many cases through online communication during after school hours. This type of learner will be prepared for the 21st century global marketplace.

Pitler, H., Hubbell, E., Kuhn, M., & Malenoski, K. (2007). *Using technology with classroom instruction that works.* Denver: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning.

Sprague, D., & Dede, C. (1999). Constructivism in the classroom - if I teach this way, am i doing my job? *Learning & Leading with Technology* .